

The COMMONWEALTH

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Tuesday, June 20, 1916.

It is now in order for Cuba to declare her neutrality.

The Shelby Highlander has removed another hat. Gee, but that fellow is blessed with lids.

Our idea of forced confidence is the Shelby Republican paper who hails him as President Hughes of the United States.

One of the strangest cases on record here is the fellow who won't sign the petition for various reasons, but is in favor of the project just the same.

THE QUESTION OF BONDS.

The agitation of a bond issue for waterworks, sewerage and paved streets goes merrily on. Everybody is exchanging views with his friends, and the result of that exchange of views is a better understanding of our needs. At the time this article was written some two hundred and twenty odd citizens (voters) of a total registration of 276 have affixed their signatures to the petition and the committee is taking turns at seeing the balance of the voters to ascertain their views and getting their names. It is pleasing to remark that very little opposition has made its appearance to the proposed improvements and the bond issue therefor. As we said last week, everything is lovely and the "goose is hanging high." It requires co-operation of all the people to make a success of a public utility. It has long since ceased to be a question of whether we need these things. The question now is, How soon can we get them installed?

THE TROUBLE WITH MEXICO.

After much parleying with Gen. Carranza and other Mexican officials, President Wilson has called a halt on negotiations and further strengthened this country's right to enter that land in search of bandit organizations the de facto government was unable to cope with by ordering out the entire national guard for border duty. What effect this order will have upon the Mexicans who seem to have united to some degree, is yet to be seen. But the looks of things would indicate that your Uncle Sam is tired of disorder, discord and night riding and intends to put a stop to it. The news of the President's determination to act at this time was received everywhere with pleasure.

There are many who consider the occupation of the Mexican Republic by United States troops until a permanent state of affairs is established a most reasonable thing; while others go so far as to express the hope that it would eventually become necessary for this government, as orderly of the continent, to annex Mexico and in due course of time admit states to the union, with governors, representatives and senators just the same as we have them in the States now.

While the act would be a violation of the Monroe doctrine, in practice now for over a century, it is not a bad idea to bear in mind that this is a day of precedents and eventualities, and the very likelihood of such a move would positively meet with much approval from various standpoints and for many reasons; mainly because of the fact that Mexico is the richest mining country on the globe and the land, as a rule, is fertile and very productive.

But we shall wait to see the outcome of the new edict; whether Carranza will submit, or the contending factions unite in a common cause. The idea of the new movement is mainly for defensive work and our troops will give a good account of themselves if there is action.

MRS. KELLY ENTERTAINS.

Friday afternoon Mrs. Kathleen Kelly entertained the Scissors Club at her home on Tenth and Greenwood Streets. Quite a number of guests were present and the afternoon pleasures were enjoyed by all. A delicious salad course was served by the hostess.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

The primary system of nominating party candidates has its defects, of course, as all human systems have. But that it is an improvement over the old convention no thoughtful believer in American democracy can deny. In many state conventions in the South for example, it has happened over and over again that men have been nominated not for ability, fitness, character or even popularity, but simply as a result of shrewd trading and wire pulling. Supporters of one candidate for governor, for example, have said to supporters of a certain candidate for superintendent of education, "you help us nominate our man and we'll help you nominate yours." And when men oppose the primary because it "puts the people into a stir," let us answer in the true words of old Nathaniel Bacon, the disciple and friend of Jefferson, "The tempest of democracy is better than the calm of despotism."—The Progressive Farmer.

Mr. Hughes will not be elected. His defeat is to be desired, among many other reasons, for this good and sufficient reason, that the invasion of the Supreme Court's chamber by needy politicians in search of a leader, now for the first time in American history successfully accomplished, may be regarded and made a precedent too dangerous for following. The ermine that we have been taught to believe should touch nothing less spotless than itself must not be donned for a few seasons' wear to be stripped off by a reckless party convention forcing its wearer into the dust and turmoil of the political arena. The Republicans have assailed the purity of that great bench. They have put the justices who sit there under the almost irresistible temptation to turn their minds aside from the questions that alone concern them, to let their thoughts wander to fields of contention where they should have no part. It is disturbing and a menace to that judicial calm and impartiality, which should prevail in that chamber and to which by the acceptance of appointment justices of the Supreme Court should devote their minds and their lives.—New York Times.

Do you know of a mail order house that has ever contributed one cent in taxes or otherwise toward defraying the expenses of this town or county?

Do you know of one that has ever contributed a cent toward our churches or schools?

Do you know of one that has ever contributed a cent to the welfare of the community in any manner, shape or form?

Do you know of one that has done anything but pull money out of the community—money which never comes back?

If not, why do you continue to enrich people who never do anything for you and yours, and yet demand their pound of flesh in advance?—Suov I'll Standard Laconic.

For our part, as one of the millions and millions of innocent bystanders, we are hoping that some solution will be found to the puzzle between the railways and their employees; that some remedy can be applied that will prevent a strike, or some happy end reached whereby there will be no strike. A tie-up of the railway traffic would be the most widespread evil that could happen to this country. It would stretch over the entire country and reach every recess. It would be different from any other character of strike, as it would effect every business and therefore every individual, in that country's business is depending upon the railways for life; commodities from the factory, from the farm, from wholesale houses, must be moved. Stagnation would mean disaster for the farmers, and paralysis for the business interests.

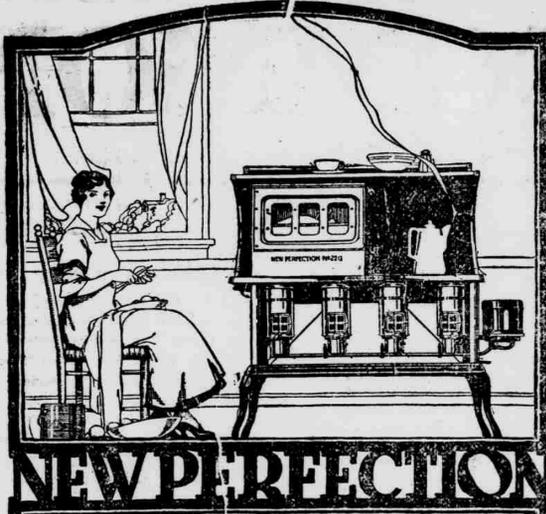
The innocent bystanders would be wounded by the millions.—Wilmington Dispatch.

The people of this section—ourselves included—can only see one result in the election next November—and that is that Wilson will be elected by an overwhelming majority. It is perfectly natural for us to think so, seeing the most of us are staunch Democrats.

But the people in the North and West—a large number of whom are Republicans—are equally confident that Hughes will be elected.

It might be better for both sides to consider the strength of the other. One thing is sure, it will not be a walk-over for either candidate—no matter how confident their supporters are.—Washington News.

It's true that Woodrow Wilson was a plurality President and not a majority one. For this reason some of the wisecracks are pointing to the fact that a combination of the two wings of the Republican party of old would defeat Woodrow Wilson in November. Of course, if there was no element at all involved save that of only one Republican candidate this time, their reasoning would be conclusive; there would be no appeal from the opinion. But this is not the lone element. There are several elements that must be met in order to defeat the Democratic nominee, and during the process principle must be cast away by thousands of votes. These elements consist mainly in the fact that it is taken for granted that once a Republican always a Republican, but which is not so. If that had been so Mr. Wilson would not have largely increased the electoral vote given his Democratic predecessor. Second, the result of every election, under such conditions, would always depend upon first-time voters or upon a split in the Republican party. Neither of these things are so. The principle is that those who left the Republican fold last time can be driven like sheep; that they were not actuated by lofty motives. Is this so? If it is not, then all who honestly subscribed to the doctrine of the Progressive party last time cannot turn to the Republican party this time, as their ideas are still wide apart. The Republican party is just as reactionary



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as ever and with the same old bosses in charge.

Another thing, a very important one, too, that must be considered, is that this time the Democratic party stand to the front, on a platform not of promises, but of action; one of pledges that have been fulfilled. There is a big difference between the two.

If mathematical calculations, based on the past, are the criterions, it would have to be admitted that the chance of Democratic success in November, without a split in the Republican ranks, would be small, as four years ago the Democratic popular vote was over million under the combined vote of Roosevelt and Taft; it was even less than the Bryan vote of eight years ago however, it again should be borne in mind that the Democratic party was an uncertain one four years ago. Today it stands backed by a record which the Republicans cannot successfully refute. It should also be remembered

that it is not always the popular vote that renders the decision, but the electoral vote. A candidate might lose a Western State by a nine-to-one vote, but might win an Eastern State by only a few majority or plurality and accomplish more.—Wilmington Star.

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